

**St. Lawrence Board of Trustees Meeting  
Utica Hotel  
April 28, 2007**

Note: MSP= Motion made, seconded, passed

**April 28, 2007**

Attending: Ellen Asprooth, Rev. Tom Chulak, Jeanne Crane, Ernie Hall, Debby Herman, Jerol Kent, Rev. Ken Mochel, Karen Palmer, Nancy Reed, Robb Smith, Casey Asprooth-Jackson

**Meeting began around 7:00 PM**

Outgoing President Ellen Asprooth conducted the meeting.

**Centering and Check-in** were waived.

**February Board Minutes** – Approved MSP

**February Conference Call Minutes** – Approved MSP

**Initial Review of District Assembly 2007**

Ellen said she would get the evaluations by those attending today's District Assembly to the board for review later. The following suggestions were made –

- Take some of the burden off the host church and off the Administrative Secretary
- The Friday night dinner was a good addition to the DA but look for a way to take the burden of organizing this off the shoulders of Sue Tabone (collecting money) and the host congregation.
- Consider having a worship service on Friday night.
- Consider a dinner after the DA on Saturday night rather than a reception and have the awards given then. This would shorten the business meeting.
- The Bridging Ceremony was also a good addition this year.
- There should be definite deadlines for requests from technical equipment.
- This year's workshops were felt to be particularly interesting and varied with fewer focused on skills training for church leaders. Having a theme with targeted workshops organized by the Leadership Development Committee is a best practice.
- Thank you notes will be sent by Karen Palmer to the organizers of the DA. Karen will also send something celebratory to help the Utica congregation celebrate their anniversary on Sunday May 6.

### **DA 2008**

Debby Herman will act as the staff representative on the committee for next year's DA. She will get someone else from her congregation to be the congregation's contact on the committee.

It was suggested that the DA committee plan for 175 in 2008 in Binghamton.

This year more ministers stayed for the DA, perhaps because their meeting was held in the same place as DA. The more spiritual theme may have also helped. If this is encouraged next year it may increase the numbers of rooms taken on Friday night and will leverage our ability to negotiate for free meeting rooms.

### **DA 2009**

There was discussion of scheduling of the 4 district DA's. We will try to plan them so that no more than 2 of them are on the same weekend. This way it is easier for staff to attend and resources for workshops and speakers can be shared. The board expressed its preference to continue to hold ours on the 4<sup>th</sup> weekend of April.

Ernie Hall will ask the Albany congregation to host the 2009 DA.

### **2007-2008 Board Meetings.**

The Board Retreat will be held at Notre Dame Conference Center in Canandaigua on August 16 – 18. Board members should plan to check in on Thursday night, August 16. The retreat will end late afternoon on Saturday.

The fall Board meeting will be in Amherst (tentative) on November 9-10.

The spring Board meeting will be in Binghamton On February 8-9.

### **District Executive Report.**

Tom Chulak explained his plans for a sabbatical and said that he would be sending a copy of his formal proposal. He asked for a confirmation from the board that he would be paid his regular expenses for the 4 months of his sabbatical and that was approved. He is tentatively planning on taking May & June 2008, and January & February 2009 away. These months will minimize the affect of his absence, but he will ask the DE's of the other 3 districts in our cluster to step in if needed. Tom will investigate if this will cause any additional expense for SLD.

### **Program Consultant Report.**

Jeanne Crane reported that there are already of good number of registrants for our first UU Leadership Development Institute. She encourages congregations to send a team to LDI including the ministers. Jeanne will be taking a 2 week vacation in June before her staff position is ended. She will be part of the LDI planning and will attend at no cost to the District. She also plans to do an impact study 6 months after LDI. She will continue to be a stipend consultant, but requests for her time must go through Tom.

### **UU Leadership Development Institute Report.**

The LDI proposal included \$1500 from each of the 4 districts as a start-up contribution..

\*\*\* Motion to pay this from this year's budget from a line item titled "Eagles Staff." MSP. If we run into a shortfall, this money will come from reserves. Jeanne will request this payment from Roger Thielking.

The Nominating Committee will be asked to suggest a nominee to replace Debby Herman on the Nominating Committee and to bring this name to the August meeting. **Ken Mochel** will be the new Board Liaison to the Nominating Committee.

**Lifespan Consultant's Report.** Debby Herman submitted her report (Attachment #1).

She was complimented on how much she has gotten done so far as Acting Lifespan Religious Education Consultant.

Debbie was asked to leave while the Board discussed hiring her to continue in this capacity for another year.

\*\*\* **There was a motion to continue Debbie's appointment as Acting Lifespan Religious Education Consultant (40% of full time) for the 2007-08 fiscal year and to decide, with her, what to do on a more permanent basis in February of 2008. - MSP**

### **General Assembly 2007**

Ellen will be acting as District Board President at GA this year. She will send out email invitations to the SLD Ingathering.

### **UUA Trustee Report**

David Friedman gave a brief summary of UUA meeting on plans for the Congregation First Program. A full report will be issued soon.

### **Liaison Reports**

Jerol Kent reported on the offer of a donation of 60 – 70 acres of rural land, with camping areas, near Fredonia. The owners' intention is to take this land off the tax rolls and to protect it from development by donating it to Unitarian Universalism for camping and group activities. Jerry is going to suggest to the WNY cluster of churches that they have a picnic on this site. David Friedman will find a contact person at UUA to discuss this with. The Board expressed its support for this plan if it has the support of the Western NY congregations.

### **Elections**

The following were elected unanimously.

BOARD OFFICERS: President: Ernie Hall, Vice-president: Karen Palmer, Secretary: Nancy Reed

The Board is still searching for a bookkeeper which will be a stipend position

**Adjourned**